

February 20, 2019

Re: Proposed Bill No.6242

AN ACT PROHIBITING SURCHARGES FROM BEING LEVIED ON UTILITY
CUSTOMERS TO SUBSIDIZE INTERSTATE NATURAL GAS PIPELINE CAPACITY.

To the members of the Energy & Technology Committee,

The expansion of methane gas pipelines in Connecticut over the last decade have had a detrimental effect on our great state. The companies building these pipelines promised that more gas supply would mean more convenience , lower energy prices and cleaner air if we allowed them to build more pipeline. None of these promises came to fruition.

Our energy prices have not gone down. In fact Eversource has applied to PURA for price increases on not only our gas bills but also the electric bills in some parts of the state. They have also been found by regulators to be artificially limiting the supply of gas to drive prices higher.

These pipelines have also been shown to leak methane into our air and a rate much higher than these companies have disclosed. The Synapse study last year showed that the Hartford area was suffering with much worse air quality because of the amount of gas leaking from pipeline. There have also been many documented events of pipeline ruptures that have cost CT towns and the state money in emergency services.

Given the fact that pipelines for fracked methane gas have brought much risk and damage to CT with no discernible benefit to the people of our state , it makes no sense to ask CT ratepayers to subsidize the costs of building them. The only benefits of these pipelines is to the profits of the companies that own them. Given the state of climate catastrophe that we are currently, we should be outlawing these pipelines not encouraging more by transferring money from the residents of CT to highly profitable corporations. Short of banning new pipelines, the least we can do is not allow these climate criminals to transfer their cost to the people they are harming.

I urge the Energy & Technology to vote in favor of HB 6242 to stop this theft from the people of CT and urge every member to do everything they can to pass this bill in the 2019 legislative session.

Sincerely,

Ben Martin

Wallingford, CT

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